THE LEGEND OF SIR *LEONARD LACK-WIT*, SONNE IN LAW TO SIR *GREGORY NONESENCE*,

By the marriage of his wiues eldeſt daughter to Sir Simon Simple, Tranſlated out of all Chriſtian Languages into the Kentiſh tongue.

BY MARTIN PARKER.

Falſis, myl, awyer andoreth, rowne, Miſ, vtes.

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Or elſe are to bee ſold by Stephen Pemmell, *at the blacke Bull neere the gate on London Bridge.* 1633.

To that Mighty Neptune of the Thames, great Maſter of the Ancient and Renowned Fraternity of Oares and Scullers, his euer Honored and worthily admired friend, Maſter *Iohn Taylor*, the Water-Poet: *M. P.* wiſheth all the Content that Land and Water can affoord him.

A Boate, a Boate, Iohn Taylor, come make haſte,
Heere comes a Knight that faine would haue a caſt:
He has nor wit nor Coyne, and thoult not care
For taking paines with ſuch a paltry faire:
Yet prethee doo't this one time for my ſake:
Tis not the worſt paines that thou e'r didſt take.
If thou obiect and thinke it is vnfit,
That thus I play the foole through lacke of Wit,
(For ſuch a Booke to craue thy patronage,
Who art for Wit the mirrour of our Age)

In my moſt iuſt defence I thus reply,
VVhy mayeſt not thou lacke VVit as well as I?
I knowing that thou didſt beget a diname
Sir Gregory Non-ſence (to thy long liu'd fame,
Thought it expedient and moſt requiſite
That thou ſhouldſt Patronize my lack of VVit.
Thou canſt ſpeake non-ſence where the waters roare,
And ſo can I lacke VVit vpon the ſhoare:
Betweene vs two all Men may vnderſtand
There's as much knauery by ſea and land,
As all the world beſide (ſo people ſay)
For oft the foole's the wiſeſt in the play.
It may be thought that thou art no ſmall foole,
Thou ſhew'dſt great wit in writing great Otoole.
VVell, to be briefe, I prethee entertaine
This ſimple Knight ſprung from my ſimple braine,
And in like ſimple plaine true louall be,
VVhile I can write, or ſpeake, thy friend

M. P.

To no matter who, any body, or no body; Wiſe or fooliſh Readers.

IT was my chance of late to be in *Paris* upon the top of *London-bridge*, on the ſeventy ſeventh of November, which was Whitſun Eve, when Hiperion was taking a nap in his Meridian about mid-night; I ſitting to ſhade my ſelfe from the ſcalding breath of Boreas, under the leaves of a hackney Turnep; there came by me (with tardy haſte) a little low man, not above ſixteen foot high, I ſpake not a word to him, but ſaluted him with humble ſublimity; and he very courteouſly gave mee croſſe anſwers; but at laſt with negligence and great heed he ſate down by mee upon a crimſon Sattin Bulruſh, and liſtned cloſe without any attention, while he and I betweene us three demonſtratively diſcourſt on that ignoted Knight Sir *Leonard Lacke-wit*; whoſe ſtory as I heard it without eares, ſo Ile expreſſe it without pen, inke, or paper, wiſhing the Reader not to bee angry with his judgement, if hee can finde neither Wit nor Senſe in it; for I tell him before-

hand, that if he lookes for any such matter, he is deceived; for if it were witty, it would be disproportionable to the Title, and my intention; therefore,

Like it, or leave it, all's one to me,
For I am and will be plaine-dealing

M. P.

An Alphantaſticall (Alphabeticall, I ſhould have ſaid) note of all thoſe ignoted Authors, that are negligently mentioned in this huge Volume.

ANdrew Caine of all trades.
Adam Bell.
Ariſtippus.
Abraham Baſting-ladle.
Ace of Spades.
Banbury Cakes.
Beares Bag-piper.
Clim of the Clough.
Cocke VVat.
Cockle de Moy.
Cocke Robin.
Dapper Dicke.
Dagger Pye.
Divell and the Scold.
Doll the Dary maid.
Elinor Rumming.
Evan up Powell.
Eele pyes in lent.
Fryer Bacon.
Fryer Ruſh.
Fryer Tucke.
Fenner the Rimer.

Ginr

Ging the Cobler.
George a loo.
Gregory Brandon.
Giles the Great.
Girgin the beane shi---ter.
Huffes Ale.
Hollands Leager.
Hungers sauce.
Ignatius Loyola.
Iacke a Dandy.
Iacke Pudding.
Iohn for the King.
King and the Tanner.
King and the Miller.
Knavery of all Trades.
Lusty Lawrence.
Lancashire Hornepipe.
Looke out Neighbours.
Madge Begger.
Mal. Simmes.
Money is an Asse.
Muld Sacke.
Nobody loves mee.
Nicke vine holes.
Nichole-a-Cod.
Ned Smith.
Newgate Colledge.
Ouels the Great.

Oger

Oger the Dane.
Otemeale hoe.
Opportunity is a Bawd.
Poſt and pare.
Primero.
Primeviſtoe.
Preſsing of VVatermen.
Pinder of VVakefield.
Peter Cranfield.
Quart-pot Law.
Queene Dido.
Quarrelling Dicke.
Quicke and nimble.
Robin Good-fellow.
Robin Hood.
Rowland and Oliver.
Racking of Rent.
Round about our cole fire.
Shoomaker is a Gentleman.
Siſly Bumtrinkets.
See and ſee not.
Service is no heritage.
Shan a Morgan.
Tom Long the Carryer.
Trundles Dragon.
Tib and Tom.
Three Teſters for a ſhilling.
Valentine and Orſon.
Valiant VVelſhman.

Vineger

Vineger and Muſtard,
Veale pyes.
William of Cloudeſley.
Wat Tyler.
Wine, Ale and Beere.
Wily beguily.
Xantippe and Socrates.
Xenophons Medly.
Yorkeſhire cloth.
Yeomen of Kent.
Yes I warrant you.
Yolkes of egges.
Zoroaſter upon Magicke.
Zenobia and Tamberlaine.

All theſe (as ſoone as any one of them) you may find very large & ſparingly toucht in this marvelous Hiſtorianly, for confirmation of the truth and true ſenſe of this Story.

Some

Some small faults (on purpose) escaped in the printing, lest the Reader should think that the Booke were guilty of being too much sensable or sententious.

IN the 1 989. page, line 205. for time read hard. In the 300. page, line 400 for merchant read a meere cheater: in the 65. page line 290. for powderd beefe read mustard: in the 103. page, line 88. for wives read few good: in the 709. page, line 11000. for morice dancers read a Tabber and pipe: in the 608. page line 96. for a pot of Ale read a penny: in the 150. page, line 900. for Poetry read poverty: in the 570. page, line 87. for an Owle read an Ivie tree, in the 48. page. line 80. for Marshalmen, red mercilesse men: in the 600. page, line 99. for a Tinker read a budget: in the 67. page, line 52. for a Cuckold read hornes.

These with a great many other faults the intellectual Reader may easily mend when he meets them in his dish.

You

You who will heare some newes worth admiration,
List to Sir Leonard Lacke-wits Promulgation.

IN the times of Yore, some 4. dayes since, in Christmas holy dayes, when pease beganne to bloome, about the midst of November, when the signe was in Shrovetuesday; and the Moone in May-day, I met King *Janus* leading a band of Butter-flies, against the Tartars in Tower street, but with a blast from Bosomes Inne, the three Kings of Cullin were sent into Pater-noster Row to buy Parsnips, when by the intercession of Morpheus, Muld-Sacke was metamorphosed into an Ale-house. The Bull of *Phalleris* broke out of the parish Garden, and slew three Pigeons in the Poultry Counter. *Alexis* inraged (with silence broke out) into a great fury against Painters, while poore Tom of Bedlem broke the head of *Cerberus* with the

Ore

Ore of *Charon*. *Atlanta* and *Hipomones* plaid at foot-ball in Tuttle fields; The petty-foggers of *Virginia* set *Hercules* and *Caucasus* together by the eares, about the drinking of fryed Hartichokes. The blue bores of Islington Forrest leapt over Pancrasse Church to invade the Turkes Army in Bosworth field: these things (with diligent negligence) were told to the Emperour of *Pyramedes*, who sent foure dripping pannes to tell great *Tamberlaine*, that *London* had never a Cuckold in it. King *Priam* hearing this ioyfull newes, tooke two quarts of scalding Gun-powder, and dranke a health to the fixe Wind-mills in Gracious street. *Aesculapius* gave a glister to *Aristippus*, & made him vomit as much horse-bread as served to feed *Bucephalus* eight hundred yeeres and fifty foure moneths; the South wind seeing things to be so carryed at Totnam Court, sent out a warrant to catch the River of *Severne* in a mouse-trap; all the Shoomakers shops on *Salisbury* plaine were (without hands) removed to the toppe of *Grantham* steeple. *Pandion* Prince of *Athens* sent *Grobendunke* the Grasier to the signe of the three Pigeons in Cowcumber Alley, to enquire for Raddle the Ratcatcher; while this hurly burly was in Crooked lane, there came

came a Poſt riding upon a Mackerill, that brought newes from Sparta, that *Ganimede* and *Iupiter* were gone to Ieruſalem to eate ſteakes at *Nicholas* Shambles. All the Sope-boylers in Sandrocola made petition to the King of *Sclavonia*, to ſet up ſhop upon Madames Court hill. King *Admetus* of Theſaly ſayling along the Coaſt of Shoreditch, met the Pinder of Wakefield at Saint *Giles* in the fields, betweene whom and the Carryer of Carthage was a cruell combate about the beating of Saint *Thomas a Watering*; the cryer of Conſtantinople was ſent to Long Acre, & to cry a blue bitch that was loſt at Shrewſbery; in the meane time foureteene ounces of Nutmegs, and tenne kilderkins of Ale, were controverting about the Pope and the Divell. The Turkiſh Sultan led an army into *Plutarchs* Morals; and being met at Coventry, by the Tinker of Turvy, hee was overthrowne at Canturbury, neere Harrow on the Hill, when ſuddenly the blind man of Hollowell turned ſtarre-gazer, and made Almanacks as true as any of the fraternity: then with 93. yards of ell broad packthread, the King of Egypt led the Earle of Acherow over the oeconomical Ocean into Parnaſus ferry, and with a boat made of Whale bones hee

ſayled

ſayled from Eaſter munday to Saint *Albanes*; the Prince of *Plebeans* invited *Heliogabalus* to a ſupper of Sprats, on Whitſunday in the morning. *Tom Teltroth* met with *Aquarius* at Stratford Langton, and broke his water-tankard againſt a ſnow-ball that lay on the top of Middleborough Caſtle; then with foure drammes of Hilarity, and eleven ounces of Lachrymæ, the Duke of duplicity made a ſimple compounded potion, to give to god Bacchus, for a mornings draught after ſupper; all the pudding-pyes in Fleet Lane leapt for ioy, when they heard this Nuncius, for they ignorantly knew that when Fryer *Bacon* came from Trumpe Alley, the Sophy of Perſia ſhould rue his voyage to Peticoat lane; thus in a calme commotion the Peeres of Pye-corner ranne to Aleppo by candle light, and enformed the great maſter of Malta, what ſport was at Sturbridge fayre. The fire-ſhovell and the tongs ſate in conſultation, and (with diſparity) agreed

upon the point, the ſumme of their calculation was this, that ſea-coales being ſo cheape, whether the fault was in the Merchant, or the Woodmonger; when preſently two Humble-Bees divided the controverſie, that ſeeing an Aſſe is a beaſt, why ſhould not an Owle be a bird? After this the Ace of ſpades in a merry (malecontent) went over into Ireland to talke with the Emperor of Ruſſia, about the battell of Creſſy. *Propertius* ſome eight yeeres hence, put himſelfe apprentice to Pegaſus; whereof *Prometheus* hearing, came preſently to Duke *Humphries* (in Long lane) and vowed the death of all honeſt Brokers. *Don Iohn* of Auſtria married Pope *Vrbans* ſonne at Alexandria on Candlemas day a weeke after Eaſter. *Siſiphus* threw a ſtone at *Tantalus*, who (in revenge) beat out his braines with a roaſted apple. The Puritanes of Argeere having notice of Cheapſides honour, went dancing the Morris from Dover to Callis; while theſe things were

were in action at Brinigham, *Will Summers* frighted Cardinall *Wolsey* with an Oxe hide; and made him runne to Rome with a morter on his head. An invincible navy of Gnats sayled thorow White Chappell, and landed at Rotterdam; which so amazed *Erasmus*, that he turned over twelve leaves of his Booke: The Hungarians seeing this, sent post to Primrose hill, to give notice to the Duke of Hellespont, what brave spiced Cakes were at Hogsdon; In the interim *Rumny Marsh* made preparation for the entertainment of Smithfield Barres. *Hanibal* the Romane, and *Scipio* the Carthagenian wrastled in Moore fields, while the Tripewives of Braintford sayled to London in Cockle shells; all the Spider-catchers of Dublin were sent to Waterford to kill Adders. The Realto of Venice fell at ods with Saint *Michaels* at Coventry, about paying tythes to Doctor *Story*, which caused such a friendly commotion in Milford Haven, that the besie-

gers were afraid of the beſieged. All the Bells in Woodſtreet Counter rung merrily, when they heard that the King of Æthiopias Generall was ſlaine. *Colbrand* the Daniſh Dwarfe tooke advantage of *Tom Thumbs* victory, and led an Army of Broome-ſtaves to the toppe of Banſteed Downes, and there hee encountred with *Pericles* the Prince of Tyre upō Bromly Common, and overthrew him in Lincolns Inne fields. The Pierian Valleys (betweene Europe and Graveſend) were ſtrewed over with Primroſes, for ioy that the Queen of hearts was returned from Quinborough. The Beadle of Bewmorris tooke *Sardinapalus* in Bloomeſberry, and carryed him to the Bridewell in Barwicke, thinking hee had bin a common whore of Deptford. *Michael Ioſeph* the Blacke-Smith ſtole a hammer and a paire of pincers from *Vulcan*, for which old *Mulciber* brought him before the Collier of Croydon, who committed his carkaſſe to the

Mag-

Mag-Pyes of *Padington*. The Burgomaſters of Batterſea learned out of *Chaucers* Dictionary, that rowing far paſſes either riding or running. *Heraclitus* laught to ſee Battle Bridge brought to Bilinſgate in a Boat: while newes was told to great *Agamemnon*, that *Rocius* ſhould come to act, Wit, whither wilt thou, at the Fortune. The Scholers in Finsberry iayle gave great thankes to the Tombe of King *Pharomond* for giving relaxation to the Cuſtards of Chelſea. Strange ſights were ſeen at Cuckolds Haven neere *Ludlow*: three men had foure hands & five legs. The Poſt-maſter of Hockly in the hole, rode upon a greene Grey-hound from Greenewich Caſtle to Gaunt, in leſſe than foure daies and forty eight houres, to the great admiration of the Caliph of Babylon. Though a man and a horſe be of different qualities, yet tis knowne by experience throughout all Saint *Georges* fields, that a whore can drinke as good wine as an honeſt woman, and

though a man were as chaſt as *Leda*, as honeſt as *Meſelina*, and as conſtant as *Clitemneſtra*, yet in the judgement of ſome, *Lucretia*, *Penelope*, and *Peroe*, ſhall bee counted the better men. A Stork is a ſtrange bird, & ſo is a Duck, but by the counſell of King *Cleopatra* and Queene *Antonia*, no man ought to pay money before he hath it; nay, I dare avouch it from the authority of *Silvius* paſt honeſty, that fifteene Partridges are better than ſeventeen redde Herrings and eighteene ſprats to boot: but he that eats Frogs in the fields, muſt not ſcorne Hens and Capons at-home; for tis very probable, that if *Amphitrion* ſhould catch *Iupiter* in bed with his wife *Alcumena*, hee'd thinke hee is a Cuckold, though he be none: but did *Anchiſes* know that *Niobe* ſold butter in Newgate Market; hee'd ſend to the Conſtable of Cheſter, and fetch her away, mauger the Maior of Lutterworth.

Old *Hobſon* the Hermes of the Muſes,

ſes, is gone to drive *Charles* his Wayne: but you muſt imagine that Mackarels are not ſold twelve a groat al the yeere long: Though a man were as wiſe as *Pamus*, and rich as *Irus*, and as handſome as *Æſop*, yet a boy of two yeeres old may be as honeſt. In a moment of time, before a man could have gone from Barwicke to Briſtow and backe againe, Fryer *Francis* had ſaid Mattins, eaten his breakefaſt, kiſt his Lemmon, and was gone as farre as Midſummer, before old Pentecoſt was aware. Some thinking *Heroſtrates* was but a Ninihammer for burning *Dianas* Temple; but in my conceit *Icarus* and *Dedalus* might have ſcapt drowning if they had caught hold on Windſore Caſtle. *Telyphus* King of Myſya had certainely but bad counſellors: for the croſſe daggers in Monks Kirbie, would haue cured him better than all the ruſt upon the ſpeare of *Achilles*: But if the Tanner of Tamworth come next Munday to Leaden Hall, it is a trouble-

ſome day to the mighty Miller of New port pannell. By the report of old women and dogges, tis neede that makes the old wife trot. Thus with parſimonious and profuſe Houſekeepers, Sir *Leonard Lackwit* kept his C[illegible]ſtmas from Bartholmewtide, untill Saint *Ieſferies* Eve, and then an Aſſe was ſent to him in Ambaſſage from the ignominiall Emperour of Vtopia; by whom he was moſt faſtidiouſly bid welcome, and with incomprehenſible kindneſſe caſt into an inviſible dungeō, from whence being brought to offend and abuſe himſelfe againſt his excuſers, hee made a long and inſipient Oration in Oxhameter Verſe, that for the quantity of their feet may out-trip *Ladas* the footman of Macedonian Alexander. But ſtay my Muſe: we ſhal be betraied anon: therefore let us give place to Sir *Leonard Lack-wit*, and let him ſpeake for himſelfe. for ſhould any ſenſe be found in this Legend, all the ſport were quite ſpoyled.

Therefore,

Therefore,

Silence my maſters, while I do indever
Vnto you (in obſcure termes) to deliver,
A Speech made to the Emperor of Vtopia,
Spoken in heathen Greeke, or Ethiopia.
T is harſher ſtored with rime than tis with reaſon
But if twere worſe it now would come in ſeaſon,
For tis againſt the Authors firſt intention,
If any wit be found in this invention.
Stand further off, war ſhins, leſt I ſhud wrõg you,
Whẽ theſe ſwift rimes come galoping among you.

To that moſt ignoble Icarion Idiot Mag pye among men, and a Bull-begger among Birds and Beaſts, *Signior Anonimus Ignoto,* Emperour of Vtopia, great King of Fairy Land, Prince of the high and mighty Nation, called the Pigmies, Duke of Diomondo, Earle of Clappardudgeon, Governor of Greenland, and al the inhabitable Ilands in that waſte part of the Terreſtrial Globe, Sir *Leonard Lack-wit* his Maſterſhips moſt ſublime vaſſall, greeteth in this manner.

O thou who art the onely Dominator
Ore all theſe ſpacious bounds of Erra Pater,
Thou that doſt rule even from the wals of Bantã

Vnto

Vnto the very confines of Bizantam, (der.
To thee great King of Crickets, geese & gan-
I that was once one of thy chiefe commanders,
Now to such honour by that meanes am risen,
That I have leave to famish in thy prison.
I that lived like a Lord among thy Laquies,
Now know not at what rate a pint of Sacke is:
I that with Beefe and Bacon fed my Carkis,
Now hardly know what kind of meat a Lark is,
I that thy Gardner was to dig and delve it,
Have never a sute but sattin, plush or velvet.
I that was wont to keep frogs from thy trenches
Am now enjoyn'd to keep but just ten wenches.
I that have heretofore danc't many a merry Jig,
Am now at last constrained to weare a periwig:
Yet know, great mongril, that I do not feare thee,
Nor would I have thee think that I do ieer thee.
If thou tell me that I want understanding,
To have the Ile of dogs at my commanding,
I tell thee plainely I conceive great ielousie,
That thou thy selfe art but a foole aswell as I,
Although my name be Lack-wit, yet it may be,
That I have wit enough to please a Lady,
Ide have thee know that I a man of note am,
My father once was Alderman of Gotam.
I have observed by my neglective knowledge,

That

That al the wise men come not from the colledg,
And I have known a dunce (as was thy grandser
Demand a thing which Doctors cannot answer,
And tis apparant both to good and bad men,
That those who have no wit are fools or madmen
Yet I have seene a drunkard oft goe reeling,
Whē yet his head hath hardly toucht the seeling.
The Proverbe sayes, Plain dealing is a iewell,
And I in Lent am glad of Watergrewell.
Wert thou as mercifull as was Busiris,
Yet to have iustice of thee my desire is.
Nay hadst thou as much ease as hath Ixion,
Yet may a Mouse run safely by a Lion;
Nay more, wert thou as true and iust as Simon,
Yet may thy Table serve for men to dine on.
These things have oft tane up my contemplation
Me thinkes a Hangman's no good occupation:
And though my teeth within my bosom chatter
Be't known to thee, I came not here to flatter:
It glads me more to heare a Carman whistle,
Than to smell thee when thou dost fart & fistle.
The fals of great mē through ambitious climing
To poore men oft occasion gives of riming,
Yet should blind Homer see what here I utter,
Tis ten to one but he'd against me mutter.
And Ile be sworne on Ciceroes Epistles,

One

One ſheafe of Wheat is worth a load of thiſtles.
There's many travellers find newes to brag on,
That are as true as Trundles Suſſex Dragon:
But whē the Wandring Iew coms to Weſtcheſter
He'l tell at Coventry what's done at Leiſter,
If I ſhould ſay I was at Leipſitch battle,
I doubt ſome men would think 'twer idle prattle.
but thers rare Wonders told in kentſtreet gariſon
Your weekly newes to that maks no compariſon.
I oftentimes have heard my Grandams wonder,
Why ſheep and Wolves ſhould live ſo far aſunder
I did reſolve her doubt, yet I ſaid nothing (thing.
Wolves be not known frō ſheepclad in ſheeps clo-
Yet I confeſſe, tis more fit for King Priam,
To talke of theſe things than ſuch fools as I am.
Wel though theſe lofty matters are paſt my ſenſe
The proverbe ſaith, loſers may ſpeak by licence.
And now great Monopoly having vented
My empty veſſell, I am well contented,
What ſaiſt thou to me? why didſt thou convent me
To tel the news for which thou maiſt torment me
Tuſh I regard thy ſpight leſſe than a token,
For thou canſt take no hold of what I've ſpoken:
I nonſence ſpoke on purpoſe to deceive thee,
Now farewell: as I found thee, ſo Ile leave thee.

This witleſſe and eloquent Oration, being uttered

ttered with loud taciturnity, the whole Court of All-draymen roſe up every one with a moſt virulent aſperſion giving reprobation to the ſame. The mightleſſe Emperour hearing Sir *Leonard* ſpeake ſo ill in his owne offence, though before hee was egregiouſly exaſperated, and highly pleaſed with him, yet now he ſo overcame his infections, that love was changed into inveterate good will; while this cauſe was betraied at Weſtminſter Hall, the TurkiſhGallies landed at Totnam high Croſſe, and encountring with the ſumptuous Croſſe at Abington, were overthrowne at Dunſtable, and carryed priſoners to the great bed in Ware. Newes was brought to the King of Morocco that *Vlyſſes* and *Aiax* were to play a ſet at Maw for the Armes of Patroclus. Thus with friendly combates and tragicall imbracings, the Soldan of Saint *Omes* at the Sarazens head in Carter lane, went to the ſigne of True the Taylor in Thred-needle ſtreet, where having dined about foure of the clocke in the morning, they ſayld from thence in a boat on dry land, to the top of Marlborrow Caſtle, & arrived at Peckidilly hall in Amſterdam, on the forty

forty ſoure of December, twenty eight houres after midnight, *Minos* and *Paſiphae* were married in Queenes Street, and ſoone after they fell at variance about the Bull at Biſhopſgate. Thus tis for great men to marry their Chambermaids by the opinion of ſquint-eyed cur-dog. Marriage and hanging goes by deſtiny, hee that had lived three hundred yeeres, and ſeen never a merry day, I know no reaſon why antiquity and his owne experience may not teach him to ſee as farre into a milſtone as a younger body. But as *Elenor Rumming* ſayes, What will not people doe to get money for ſtrong Ale? ſo there is no creature ſo able to maſter a man as a ſhrew. Though London and Yorke bee a great way aſunder, yet man and wife may fall out and be friends againe. You would think it were a great wonder to ſee a mouſe catch a cat, and truely ſo ſhould I; but were the King of Clubs of my mind, all the world ſhould bee goeurned by the foure elements. *Diogenes* was but an aſſe to looke for an honeſt man in Athens, for if hee would but make a ſteppe to *Weſtminſter* in the terme time he might finde a million, nor can it be other-

herwise imagined, but that if Sir *Ignis Fatuus* had not been wiser than *Phaeton*, all the world had been burnt to Pyecruſt; for the ſiege of Ieruſalem was but as Schollers ſhut out their maſters againſt Chriſtmas, in compariſon of Hollands Leager: but of all trades that bee, Coblers and Botchers come moſt neere to the practice of goodneſſe, for they are ſtill of the mending hand; and of the two the Cobler deſerves precedency, for hee mends the ſole, and the Botcher only repaires the body. When egges were ſold for twenty a penny, a man might have filled his belly for ſixe pence: but now adayes, there is no leſſe than your three penny Ordinary, that can give a mans ſtomacke ſatisfaction. Old *Hiſteron et Proteron* the Carter, went to Smithfield to fetch a load of Hay, to feed Equiculus the huge and mighty horſe of Bacchus, but being met at Scandroon by (ſwift-footed) *Saturne*, his Cart was overthrowne upon Braineford Bridge, and his hay was carryed (away in a whirle wind) to the top of Bow ſteeple. *Caſtor* and *Pollux* ranne at tilt in Cuckold pound, with ſpeares made of Cantharides, for the love of pudding Pye

Doll.

Doll. Queene *Hecuba* kept an eight pen. Ordinary in Bethlem, and *Hellen* ſold milke at Hackny. While *Wat Tyler* and King *Guendolina* went a fiſhing in a Leaden boat over the Ale Anticke Ocean into the forreſt of Dean in Aſia Minor, thus with contaminous and dulcid ſavours the inhabitants of Green land putrified and perfumed their unparalelled palace for the entertainement of the greaſie and moſt horrible Emperour of Vtopia (before mentioned) a white Raven was ſent on an errrand to Caſtle Angelo, to tell the Pope and his Cardinals, that Eaſter day happens on a Sunday. A mouſe came ſwimming over the River of Rhine, with an Elephant on his backe, and told the Burgers of Baſingſtocke, that good Ale and Beere may be made of Barly; which they incredibly beleeving, gave teſtimony to the Fryers minoritis at Vienna, that Lemmons are good ſawce to mutton; then by the advertiſment of Primroſe hill, an agreement was made betweene Dove-houſes and ſalt-Peeter men for ever: The Articles being written with a Spiders feather. The blacke dogge of Newgate hath lately brought ſtrange tidings out

of

of Tripiloe, among the reſt, that *Mahomet* is preferred to be Chaplaine in ordinary to *Pluto* the Prince of Avernus. King *Thomiris* and Queene *Cyrus* very lovingly ranne at Barly breake, upon Horſe-head downe neere Redding. The Blinde begger of Bednall Green, ſeeing the conſtant mutability of this permanent age, put on a paire of new ſhooes upon his ſhoulders, and a long ſtaffe on his heeles, hee went with remiſſe and careſull heed to the Vice-Roy of Naples, and raiſed a hue and cry againſt the Hogges of Doctor *Fauſtus*, for rooting up the corne upon Rocheſter bridge. The Fiſhwives of Feverſham came in rage to Billinſgate, and tooke away the Cucking ſtoole, and carrying it into Saint *Chriſtophers* Iland, burnt it in the River of *Nylus*, neere Hartlerow. *Palmerin* of *England* wandring over Blacke Heath to finde out his mother *Rowland* (who dyed in Armenia the great) chanc't to finde a Phœnix neſt wherein were foureteene old ones, and fifteene young ones, with great leaſure and much ſpeed, hee brought them (as a preſent) to the King of Numidia, dwelling at Durham, who very curriſhly accepted them,

and to ſhew his gratitude, preferred him to bee the Pinder of Pancraſſe. Tis a madde world when a Drunkard muſt breake his noſe through want of a poſt to run againſt. Thus promiſcouſly, very certaine and ambiguouſly, the Scullers of Barnet taught *Æneas Silvius*, the way to goe to Dunſtable by water, while Ware and Wades mill went to Hounſlow Heath, and robbed a naked Indian in New England. An Army conſiſting of 600000. Frogs, tooke ſhipping at Fathering Caſtle, & ſayled to Conſtantinople, won the City, and tooke Gogmagog the Pigmy that was Governour, whom they brought into Marow-bone Park, and there throwing him over boord, drown'd him on Dunſmore Heath. Thus as Sir *Leonard Lack-wit* beganne his Legend with a band of Butterflies, ſo by the ſhallow profundity of his inſcrutable and incapable deſtruction, he hath fitted his marvelous and moſt uncertaine true relation, to finiſh in the midſt with an Army of Frogs. Now if any Readers ſhall queſtion the truth of it (as queſtionleſſe ſome will)

Let them ſurvey the wonderfull aad incredible

credible true Hiſtories of *Garagantua*, *Tom Thumbe*, *Bevis* of Southampton, with a thouſand more, and they ſhall finde that unleſſe there bee lyes in them, this muſt needs bee true. Yet the Authors who publiſhed thoſe, thought they had wit enough: but I in my Title confeſſe lacke of wit; and therefore I hope I am the more excuſable; but howſoever tis not my purpoſe to raviſh your beleefe, and to bee plaine, I hardly give credit to't my ſelfe.

To the criticall Readers.

You who with over-curious Survey looke,
To finde the ſmalleſt faults in any booke;
Now looke your hearts out, here, you know your wages
I have prevented you in all my pages,
You looke for nonſenſe where none can be found,
So ſeek for ſenſe, where nonſence doth abound.

Laſtly,

Laſtly to the truely intellectuall Readers.

FRiends, doe not think that alwaies I lack wit,
Though for this once I ſeem to publiſh it.
Know that more wit's required in ſeeming ſo,
Than of ſmall wit to make a glorious ſhow,
Let your acceptance my endeavours pitty,
And for your loves Ile ſtrive to be more witty.

FINIS.

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